

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 28, 1998

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—1997–98 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 1784**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Baca**

February 6, 1998

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An act to add Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11759) to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to substance abuse.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1784, as amended, Baca. Alcohol and drug treatment for adolescents.

Existing law imposes various functions and duties on the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs with respect to the administration of programs for the treatment of substance abuse.

This bill would enact the Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act of 1998, which would require the department, in collaboration with counties and local law enforcement, to establish community-based nonresidential and residential recovery programs to intervene and treat the problems of alcohol and drugs among youth.

*The bill would also require the department to convene representatives of specified state agencies to collaborate on the implementation of the act by developing the plans necessary for the implementation of program services including the funding required, licensing and certification*

*standards, goals and objectives, and models for residential and nonresidential programs.*

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of  
2 the following:

3 (a) California families are confronted with  
4 challenging problems ~~being created by the problems~~  
5 ~~associated by drugs~~ *associated with drug* and alcohol  
6 abuse. Families are in desperate need for assistance in the  
7 management and treatment of this adolescent and youth  
8 problem.

9 (b) In California, the primary strategy for challenging  
10 adolescents and drug problems has been placed on the  
11 California Youth Authority, probation departments, and  
12 other law enforcement related agencies.

13 (c) According to the recent report by the Drug  
14 Strategies Inc., an organization that examines and reports  
15 approaches to drug law enforcement, many police  
16 officers have concluded that heavy reliance on the  
17 criminal justice system to solve the nation's drug  
18 problems is simply not working. Sixty percent of police  
19 chiefs say law enforcement efforts to reduce drug abuse  
20 are unsuccessful, according to a nationwide 1996 Peter D.  
21 Hart Research Associates poll; nearly half called for a  
22 fundamental overhaul of how we deal with the drug  
23 problem.

24 (d) The nation's chiefs of police and the American  
25 public agree that drug abuse is a major problem that is  
26 growing worse. In a 1996 poll, 6 to 10 police chiefs  
27 reported that drug abuse was the most serious problem  
28 facing their communities; more serious than domestic  
29 violence, property crime, or violent crime. In a survey a  
30 year earlier, over half of Americans reported concern  
31 about drug use among young people and the violence  
32 associated with drug trafficking. Two-thirds of police



1 chiefs and the American public believe the drug problem  
2 has grown worse over the past five years.

3 (e) Perceptions of drug abuse exist despite significant  
4 government spending on drug control efforts. From 1981  
5 to 1997, the federal government spent nearly sixty billion  
6 dollars (\$60,000,000,000) on domestic drug law  
7 enforcement. Federal expenditures for domestic drug  
8 law enforcement during the years of 1991 to 1995,  
9 inclusive, were eight times larger than expenditures from  
10 the years of 1981 to 1985, inclusive. Despite these budget  
11 increases, the drug problem persists.

12 (f) Arrests for drug offenses (possession or sales) have  
13 risen sharply in recent years, climbing from 460,224 in  
14 1980, to 1,167,600 in 1995.

15 (g) Since 1991, drug use has climbed sharply among  
16 junior high and high school students, according to the  
17 annual survey, "Monitoring the Future". Increases have  
18 been most dramatic among the youngest teens. In the  
19 past five years, drug use has more than doubled among  
20 8th- and 10th-graders.

21 (h) Results from the most recent National Household  
22 Survey on Drug Abuse, reported in August 1997, suggest  
23 that these trends may be changing; in 1996, young people  
24 ages 12 through 17, reported slight declines in drug use.  
25 However, epidemiologists are cautious about  
26 interpreting the newest data since the statistically  
27 significant differences between rates of drug use in 1995  
28 and 1996 are very small.

29 (i) Information from other sources, including the new  
30 "Monitoring the Future" survey, which will be released  
31 in December 1997, will be needed to determine whether  
32 teen drug use is in fact declining. Rising teen drug use has  
33 been accompanied by increasing drug arrests among  
34 juveniles. From 1991 to 1995, juvenile drug law violations  
35 (possession or sale) more than doubled. The nationwide  
36 Drug Use Forecasting system (DUF) reports that in 1996,  
37 more than half of arrested juveniles tested positive for  
38 drugs at the time of arrest, compared to less than one-fifth  
39 five years ago.

(j) This act recognizes that federal, state, and local drug control spending assigns low priority to treatment and prevention of substance abuse, and recognized the extensive research that confirms that treatment is the most cost-effective way to combat drug abuse and drug-related crimes.

(k) The 1994 Rand Study found that thirty-four million dollars (\$34,000,000) invested in treatment would reduce cocaine use as much as an expenditure of two hundred forty-six million dollars (\$246,000,000) for law enforcement or three hundred sixty-six million dollars (\$366,000,000) for interdiction.

SEC. 2. Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 11759) is added to Part 1 of Division 10.5 of the Health and Safety Code, to read:

CHAPTER 4. ALCOHOL AND DRUG TREATMENT FOR  
ADOLESCENTS

11759. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the Adolescent Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Program Act of 1998.

11759.1. The department, in collaboration with counties and local law enforcement, shall establish community-based nonresidential and residential recovery programs to intervene and treat the problems of alcohol and drugs among youth.

11759.2. Priority for funding of these programs shall be given to those counties with the highest concentration of alcohol- and drug-related arrests as reported by the Department of Justice.

11759.3. *The department shall convene representatives from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP), the California Youth Authority (CYA), the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB), the State Department of Education, the State Department of Social Services, and any other agencies as the department deems necessary, to collaborate on the implementation of this chapter. These representatives shall develop the plans necessary for the implementation*

1 *of program services required under this chapter*  
2 *including the funding required, licensing and*  
3 *certification standards, goals and objectives, and models*  
4 *for residential and nonresidential programs.*

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